

REMARKS

Claim 11 has been amended and Claims 12 and 13 have been canceled. Applicants appreciate Examiner's clarification with respect to the objection of claims 14 and 15. Claims 11, 14-16, 18-27 are pending.

In the Office Action, Claims 11-13 and 16-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as the specification has not been found to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

A comparison of the alignment presented previously in Appendix A (see Response to Office Action, dated August 6, 2003), demonstrates the sequence of the invention possesses stretches of highly conserved regions. One skilled in the art would appreciate that the more highly conserved a residue is, the less likely that it could be modified and function maintained. From this alignment, one could quickly determine which amino acid residues might be modified in SEQ ID NO:10 without a likely change in function.

In view of the amendments and discussion above, together with the arguments set forth in Applicants' previous response, dated August 6, 2003, Applicants believe that one skilled in the art would know how to use the claimed sequence without undue experimentation and that the rejection according to 35 USC §112, first paragraph, should be removed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Please charge any requisite fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

Respectfully submitted,



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